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The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), an operating administration of the US Department of Transportation (DOT), is a national statistical agency, DOT's representative on the Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the home of the National Transportation Library. BTS compiles, analyzes, and makes accessible information about the nation's transportation systems; collects information on various aspects of transportation; and enhances the quality and effectiveness of the Department's statistical programs through research, the development of guidelines, and the promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use.

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The Secretary of Transportation has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department.

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

This issue of the *Journal of Transportation and Statistics* (JTS) ushers in our second year of publication, along with a few changes. First, we welcome the new Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Ashish K. Sen. As only the second director of this agency, we look to him to nurture it toward maturity and to chart a course for its future. Before coming to the BTS, Sen served as the Director of the Urban Transportation Center and the Statistics and Evaluation Laboratory at the University of Illinois in Chicago. His extensive background in transportation and statistics will bring a valuable new perspective to BTS.

This year we will be adding new editorial board members from the statistical community. We will also accept articles in LaTeX, a language widely used by statisticians, as part of an effort to better serve the statistical community. With these changes, we hope to encourage greater participation by statisticians.

JTS's fundamental objectives, however, remain unchanged. Articles will still cover the following areas:

- measurement of transportation activity and the performance of transportation systems,
- measurement and analysis of the importance of transportation and its consequences,
- measurement and analysis of transportation trends,
- advancement of the science of acquiring, validating, managing, interpreting, and disseminating transportation information.

As a publication of a federal statistical agency, the JTS will continue to focus on data, description, and analysis and will explicitly avoid policy studies.

After careful consideration, we have decided to delay quarterly publication until 2000. In the last issue of the JTS, I wrote about adding a comprehensive statistical series of transportation performance indicators starting later this year. This will not be done until BTS completes a thorough review of available measures. We will keep you updated on our publication plans.

As always, your interests, ideas, and recommendations for improving the JTS are important to us. We invite you to communicate with us via email at journal@bts.gov, by visiting our website at www.bts.gov/, or by writing to me at the address on page ii of the journal. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

DAVID L. GREENE

Editor-in-Chief

